(d) what are the steps taken by Government for the welfare of ex-servicemen since 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Government have not accepted the demand of ex-Servicemen for One-Rank One Pension. However, a scheme for One Time Increase on Pension to the Armed Forces pesonnel who retired before 1.1.86 has been sanctined w.e.f. l-l-92 in pursuance of the unanimous recommendatios of the High Level Empowered Committee which had been set up by Government to examine the demand for One Rank One Pension. The Report of the High Level Empowered Committee had assessed that 6.03 lakh Defence persons would benefit under this scheme.

Government are no reviewing the scheme for grant of One Time Increase (OTI).

Improvements made since 1992 to the available welfare measures interalia include :

(i) The daughter's marriage grant to war widows, and also to war disabled ex-Servicemen, has been enhanced from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 4000.

(ii) Matching grant for the cost of construction of house, given by Kendriya Sainik Board, to war widows and war disabled, has been enhanced from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000.

(iii) Financial assistance for pur chase of tool kts by ex-Servicemen has been increased from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000.

(iv) The widows of ex-Servicemen have been given the option to opt for the Defence or Civil pension, whichever lis more beneficial to them.

(v) The AGI Medical Benefit Scheme, operating through Army Group Insurance, has been improved as follows:

(a) The scheme has been ex-ended from 15 years OT 70 years of age to life time coverage.

(b) The existing cover of Rs. 1 lakh for both members and spouse combined has been liberalised, to provide cover upto a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh each for member and spouse for the entire period of membership, which, is not transfer-rable from one to another.

(c) The Army service pension ers who retired after 1.1.76 have been made eligible to join this Scheme on a voluntary basis, up to 30th June 93.

(d) The Scheme has been ex tended to widows of members in receipt of family pension.

Crashing of IAF Aircrafts

2956. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAF aircraft crashed in the last three years yearwise;

(b) the corresponding loss of expenditure; and

(c) the reasons for such frequent crashes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a)	1989-90 . .	31 aircraft
	1990-91 . .	23 aircraft
	1991-92 . .	32 aircraft
(b)	1989-90 . .	Rs. 136.98 crores
	1990-91 . .	Rs. 117.43 crores
	1991-92 . .	Rs. 116.29 crores

(c) the accidents were caused due to human error (aircrew), technical defects, bird strike natural and oper-tional risks, etc.